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Economic and Social Council

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21 March 2016

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixtieth session
14-24 March 2016
Agenda item 6
Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission

Provisional agenda and documentation for the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:

      (i) Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

      (ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session);

Documentation

Reports of the Secretary-General:

- Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the fifth-eighth session)
- Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session)

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Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

Note by the Secretariat containing a discussion guide for the ministerial round tables

(b) Emerging issues, trends, focus areas and new approaches to questions affecting the situation of women, including equality between women and men;

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Report of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women on the activities of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of relevant sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women and responses thereto

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat serving as a contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-second session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixty-first session.

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixtieth session
14-24 March 2016
Agenda item 7
Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Šejla **Đurbuzović** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Commission on the Status of Women held its sixtieth session at United Nations Headquarters on 20 March 2015 and from 14 to 24 March 2016. The Commission held _____ meetings (1st to __).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of ___ States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended.

C. Officers of the Commission

3. The following officers were elected at the 1st and 2nd meetings of the sixtieth session, on 20 March 2015 and 14 March 2016, to serve on the Bureau of the Commission at its sixtieth session:

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Chair:
Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil)

Vice-Chairs:
Fatmaalzahraa Hassan Abdelaziz Abdelkawy (Egypt)
Jun Saito (Japan)
Andreas Glossner (Germany)

Vice-Chair-cum-Rapporteur:
Šejla Đurbuzović (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

D. Agenda and organization of work

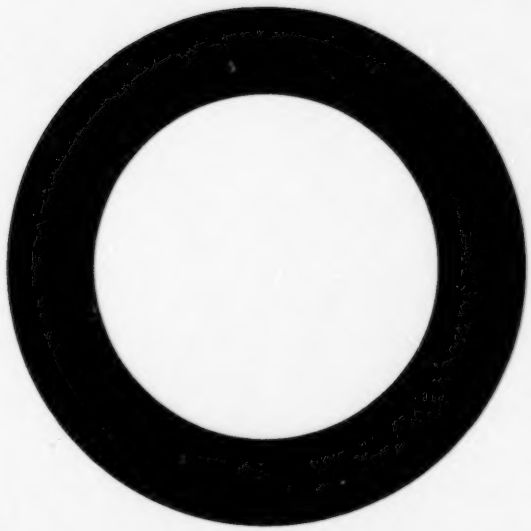
4. At its 2nd meeting, on 14 March 2016, the Commission adopted its agenda as contained in document E/CN.6/2016/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development;
      (ii) Review theme: the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the sixty-first session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its sixtieth session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved its organization of work, as contained in document E/CN.6/2016/1/Add.1.

E. Documentation

6. The list of documents before the Commission at its sixtieth session is available from www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw60-2016/official-documents.



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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixtieth session
14-24 March 2016
Agenda item 3 (c)
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Thailand:,*** draft resolution**

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3] and

* Reissued for technical reasons on 31 March 2016.

** On behalf of the States that are members of the Group of 77 and China, taking into account also the provisions of General Assembly resolution 52/250 of 7 July 1998.

*** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] E/CN.6/2016/6.

[2] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

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the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[4]

Recalling also its resolution 2015/13 of 10 June 2015 and other relevant United Nations resolutions, including General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 on women and peace and security,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[5] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[6] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and reaffirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions of the Human Rights Council,

Taking note of the accession by the State of Palestine to several human rights treaties and the core humanitarian law treaties,

Expressing deep concern about the grave situation of Palestinian women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, resulting from the severe impact of the ongoing illegal Israeli occupation and all of its manifestations,

Expressing grave concern about the increased difficulties being faced by Palestinian women and girls living under Israeli occupation, including as a result of the continuation of home demolitions, evictions of Palestinians, the revocation of residency rights, arbitrary detention and imprisonment, as well as high rates of poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, inadequate water supply and unsafe drinking water, shortage of electricity and fuel, incidents of domestic violence and declining health, education and living standards, including the rising incidence of trauma and the decline in their psychological well-being, particularly in the Gaza Strip, where a humanitarian disaster continues to severely affect the situation of women and girls,

Deploring the dire economic and social conditions of Palestinian women and girls in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the systematic violation of their human rights resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including the forced displacement and transfer of civilians, especially among the Bedouin community, and confiscation of land, particularly in connection with the construction and expansion of settlements and the wall, which continue to constitute a major obstacle to peace on the basis of the two-State solution based on the pre-1967 borders, and the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including the permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which have detrimentally affected their right to health care, including

[4] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[5] General Assembly resolution 48/104.
[6] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[7] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

access of pregnant women to health-care services for antenatal care and safe delivery, education, employment, development and freedom of movement,

Expressing grave concern about all acts of violence, intimidation and provocation by Israeli settlers against Palestinian civilians, including women and children, and properties, including homes, mosques, churches and agricultural lands, condemning acts of terror by several extremist Israeli settlers, and calling for accountability for the illegal actions perpetrated in this regard,

Gravely concerned by the tensions and violence in the recent period throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and deploring the loss of innocent civilian life, including among girls and women, as a result of excessive and indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupying forces,

Condemning the military conflict in and around the Gaza Strip in July and August 2014 and the civilian casualties caused, including the killing and injury of thousands of Palestinian civilians, including hundreds of children, women and elderly persons, as well as the widespread destruction of homes and critical civilian infrastructure, including schools, hospitals, water, sanitation and electricity networks, economic, industrial and agricultural properties, public institutions, religious sites and United Nations schools and facilities, as well as the internal displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians, and any violations of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law,

Taking note of the report and findings of the independent commission of inquiry established pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-21/1,[8] and stressing the need to ensure accountability for all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in order to end impunity, ensure justice, deter further violations, protect civilians and promote peace,

Gravely concerned, in particular, by the persisting disastrous humanitarian situation and socioeconomic conditions in the Gaza Strip, including those resulting from the Israeli military operations in July and August 2014, as well as the long-term negative impact of Israeli military operations from December 2008 to January 2009 and in November 2012, and the continuing imposition of a blockade consisting of the prolonged closure of border crossings and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, as well as the continued impeding of the reconstruction process by Israel, the occupying Power, which has detrimentally affected every aspect of the lives of the civilian population, especially women and children, in the Gaza Strip,

Stressing the need for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, consistent with the provisions and obligations under international humanitarian law,

Stressing also the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socioeconomic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families, and recognizing the essential efforts and support being provided by the United Nations agencies and other humanitarian aid organizations on the ground, particularly in response to the grave humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip,

[8] A/HRC/29/52.

Recalling the convening of the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, on 12 October 2014, and urging the timely and full disbursement of pledges for expediting the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families,

Expressing grave concern that Palestinian women and girls continue to be held in Israeli prisons or detention centres under harsh conditions including, inter alia, unhygienic conditions, solitary confinement, extensive use of administrative detention of excessive duration without charge and denial of due process, and noting that women and girls also face gender-specific challenges, including inadequate access to medical care, risks associated with pregnancy and giving birth in prison and sexual harassment,

Reiterating the importance of increasing the role of women in peacebuilding and decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region, and stressing the importance of women's equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains the major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and stresses the importance of efforts to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution and to ensure their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the achievement, maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

2. *Calls upon* the international community, in this regard, to continue to provide urgently needed assistance, especially emergency assistance, and services, bearing in mind, inter alia, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[9] and national priorities, in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, in particular for addressing the humanitarian crisis and immense reconstruction and recovery needs in the Gaza Strip, and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions, with the integration of a gender perspective into all of its international assistance programmes, commends the achievements of the Palestinian Government in constructing the institutions of an independent Palestinian State, as confirmed by international institutions, including by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations, and calls for continued support of these efforts;

3. *Calls upon* international donors to fulfil without delay all pledges made on 12 October 2014 at the Cairo International Conference on Palestine: Reconstructing Gaza, in order to expedite the provision of humanitarian assistance and the reconstruction process, which is essential for alleviating the distress of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[10] the Regulations annexed to the Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907, the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of

[9] See General Assembly resolution 70/1.
[10] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

12 August 1949[11] and all other relevant rules, principles and instruments of international law, including the International Covenants on Human Rights,[6] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

5. *Urges* the international community to continue to give special attention to the promotion and protection of the human rights of Palestinian women and girls and to intensify its measures to improve the difficult conditions being faced by Palestinian women and their families living under Israeli occupation;

6. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

7. *Urges* the international community to make renewed efforts aimed at advancing and accelerating the conclusion of a peace treaty based on clear parameters and with a defined time frame to attain without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 by resolving all outstanding issues, including all core issues, without exception, for a just, lasting and peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, in accordance with the internationally recognized basis of the two-State solution, and of the Arab-Israeli conflict as a whole, for the realization of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East;

8. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[2] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[3] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[4]

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in his report,[1] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-first session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

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[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Argentina,* Azerbaijan,* Belarus, Georgia,* Turkey* and United States of America: draft resolution

Release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Guided by the purposes, principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations,

Guided also by the principles and norms of international humanitarian law, in particular the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949[1] and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,[2] as well as relevant international standards of human rights, in particular the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[3] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[4] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[4] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[6] the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment[7] and the

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, Nos. 970-973.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1125, Nos. 17512 and 17513.
[3] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).
[4] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577. No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 1465, No. 24841.

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Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights,[8]

Taking duly into account the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/177 of 20 December 2006,[9]

Recalling all its previous resolutions on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,[10] as well as all relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Council concerning hostage-taking and General Assembly resolution 61/172 of 19 December 2006,

Recognizing that women and children bear particular vulnerabilities when taken hostage, including sexual violence and reproductive health concerns,

Recognizing also that everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person and that the taking of hostages is an offence of grave concern to the international community,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of the civilian population as such,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[11] as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[12] and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, entitled "A world fit for children",[13] including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children, and further reaffirming the declarations of the Commission on the Status of Women on the tenth, fifteenth and twentieth anniversaries of the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003 on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1828 (2008) of 31 July 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009, 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009, 1960 (2010) of 16 December 2010, 2106 (2013) of 24 June 2013, 2122 (2013) of 18 October 2013 and 2242 (2015) of 13 October 2015 on women, peace and security, as well as Council resolutions 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, 1379 (2001) of 20 November 2001, 1460 (2003) of 30 January 2003, 1539 (2004) of 22 April 2004, 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005, 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009, 1998 (2011) of 12 July 2011, 2068 (2012) of 19 September 2012, 2143 (2014) of 7 March 2014 and 2225 (2015) of 18 June 2015 on children and armed conflict, and Council resolutions 2133 (2014) of 27 January 2014, 2249 (2015) of 20 November 2015, 2253 (2015) of 17 December 2015 and 2255 (2015) of 21 December 2015 on kidnapping for ransom and hostage-taking by terrorists,

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[8] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2716, No. 48088.

[10] Resolutions 39/2, 40/1, 41/1, 42/2, 43/1, 44/1, 45/1, 46/1, 48/1, 50/1, 52/1, 54/3, 56/1 and 58/1.

[11] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution I, annexes I and II.

[12] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[13] General Assembly resolution S-27/2, annex.

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies they cause,

Noting the particular impact that trafficking in persons in situations of armed conflict has on women and children, including their increased vulnerability to sexual and gender-based violence, and expressing solidarity with and compassion for women and children who are trafficked, as noted in the statement of 16 December 2015 by the President of the Security Council,[14]

Noting that women and children who are taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, including in armed conflicts, whether international or non-international, are victims of serious violations or abuses of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, which continues to have a negative impact on efforts to put an end to those conflicts and causes suffering to the families of those women and children, and stressing, in this regard, the need to address the issue from a humanitarian perspective, among others,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence in areas of armed conflict committed against the civilian population as such, including taking women and children hostage, seriously contravene international humanitarian law, in particular as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949,

Cognizant that States that are parties to an armed conflict have a responsibility not to take hostage and subsequently imprison women and children in armed conflicts and to ensure accountability as regards the implementation of relevant mechanisms, policies and laws in order to protect them, bearing in mind that all parties to a conflict must refrain from hostage-taking,

Concerned that, despite the efforts of the international community, acts of hostage-taking in different forms and manifestations, including those committed by terrorists and armed groups, continue to take place and have even increased in many regions of the world,

Noting with concern the serious threats posed by transnational organized crime in some regions and its increasing links, in some cases, with terrorism, and strongly condemning the incidents of kidnapping and hostage-taking committed for any purpose, including raising funds or gaining political concessions,

Recognizing that addressing the problem of hostage-taking calls for resolute, firm and concerted efforts on the part of the international community, in accordance with humanitarian law and international human rights law, in order to bring such abhorrent practices to an end and hold perpetrators accountable,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly and the outcome of the special session of the General Assembly on children, including the provisions therein regarding violence against women and children,

[14] S/PRST/2015/25.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[15]

1. *Reaffirms* that hostage-taking, wherever and by whomever committed, is an illegal act aimed at the destruction of human rights and is, under any circumstances, unjustifiable;

2. *Condemns* all violent acts committed against the civilian population as such, in violation of international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, and calls for an effective response to such acts, in particular the immediate release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, including by strengthening international cooperation in the field;

3. *Also condemns* the acts committed in the context of hostage-taking, in particular torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, murder, rape, slavery and trafficking in women and children, and deplores their consequences;

4. *Urges* States that are parties to an armed conflict to take all measures necessary, in a timely manner, to determine the identity, fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, and to the greatest possible extent, to provide their family members, through the appropriate channels, with all relevant information they have on their fate and whereabouts;

5. *Invites* States, in this regard, to adopt a comprehensive approach, including all appropriate legal and practical measures and coordination mechanisms;

6. *Recognizes* the need for the collection, protection and management of information on women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, according to international and national legal norms and standards, and urges States to cooperate with each other and with other appropriate actors working in this area by, inter alia, providing all relevant and appropriate information;

7. *Strongly urges* all parties to armed conflicts to respect fully the norms of international humanitarian law and to take all measures necessary for the protection of the civilian population as such, including measures to prevent and combat acts of hostage-taking;

8. *Urges* all parties to armed conflicts to provide safe, unimpeded access to humanitarian assistance for those women and children, in accordance with international humanitarian law;

9. *Also urges* all parties to armed conflicts to cooperate fully with the International Committee of the Red Cross and, where relevant, with national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, in establishing the fate and whereabouts of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

10. *Stresses* both the need for increased accountability and the responsibility of all States to prosecute or bring to justice, in accordance with international law, those responsible for war crimes, including hostage-taking and sexual violence;

11. *Also stresses* the need to address the issue of the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts,

[15] E/CN.6/2016/7.

also as part of peace processes, with reference to all justice and rule-of-law mechanisms, on the basis of transparency, accountability and public involvement and participation;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of exchanging objective, reliable and impartial information, including through improved analysis and dissemination of data disaggregated by sex and age, on hostages, verifiable by relevant international organizations, in facilitating their release, and calls for assistance, as appropriate, to those organizations in this regard;

13. *Highlights* the importance of the rehabilitation of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, recognizing their particular vulnerability to violence, including sexual violence, in those situations, and urges the concerned States to take all measures practically possible to this end;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in the context of the present resolution, to continue to widely disseminate information, in particular relating to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000);

15. *Also requests* the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and undertake efforts to facilitate the immediate release of women and children who have been taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned;

16. *Invites* the special rapporteurs, within their respective mandates, as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to continue to address the issue of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts and its consequences;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including relevant practical recommendations, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations;

18. *Decides* to consider the question at its sixty-second session.

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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century": gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Botswana:*, draft resolution**

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[2] the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[3] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[4] key actions for its further implementation and the outcomes of its reviews, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[5] the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6] the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS,[7] Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[8]

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Southern African Development Community.

** In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[3] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[4] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[6] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[7] General Assembly resolution 65/277, annex.

[8] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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including the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the resolve of Member States to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030,

Noting with deep concern that the global HIV epidemic disproportionately affects women and girls, and acknowledging the progress achieved in the realization of Goal 6 of the Millennium Development Goals as regards halting and reversing the spread of HIV, where the global response to HIV has averted millions of new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths since 2000, when the Goals were set,

Recognizing the need to intensify efforts to end the AIDS epidemic through fast-tracking the HIV response across the prevention and treatment continuum, including in the context of the "90-90-90" targets of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, and acknowledging the specific vulnerabilities of adolescent and young girls and women due to, inter alia, unequal power relations in society between women and men and boys and girls,

Acknowledging that prevention, treatment, care and support for people living with and affected by HIV and AIDS are mutually reinforcing elements of an effective response that must be integrated into a comprehensive multisectoral gender-responsive approach to end the AIDS epidemic,

Noting with concern that regulations, policies and practices, including those that limit the legitimate trade of generic medicines, may seriously limit access to affordable HIV treatment and other pharmaceutical products in low- and middle-income countries, recognizing that improvements can be made through, inter alia, national legislation, regulatory policy and supply chain management, and noting that reductions in barriers to affordable products could be explored in order to expand access to affordable and good-quality HIV prevention products, diagnostics, medicine and treatment commodities for HIV, including for opportunistic infections and co-infections,

Stressing that gender equality and the civil, political, economic, social and cultural empowerment of women and girls, as well as the enjoyment of their full and equal human rights and fundamental freedoms, are fundamental in the eradication of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development,

Stressing also that the lack of respect, protection, promotion and fulfilment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, and insufficient access to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, including sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in accordance with the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, aggravates the impact of the AIDS epidemic, especially among women and girls, increasing their vulnerability and endangering the survival of present and future generations,

Recognizing that children and adolescents are more likely to be lost to care, that children and adolescents on antiretroviral medication are less likely than adults to reach viral load suppression and that there are many challenges in diagnosing and treating infants, children and adolescents,

Stressing the value and importance of social protection for the most vulnerable, and of achieving universal health coverage that comprises universal and equitable access to quality health services and ensures affordable and quality service

delivery to people living with HIV, including women and children, and making sure that universal health coverage also promotes HIV/AIDS responses,

Recognizing that over 13.3 million children have lost one or both parents to HIV and AIDS, that those children have complex needs pertaining to protection, care and support and that they may be at increased risk of infection, as well as at increased risk of violence, including sexual and gender-based violence,

Noting with appreciation the efforts of Member States and the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women and children, in particular the girl child, including the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the "HeForShe" campaign,

Deeply concerned that all forms of violence against women and girls, discrimination and harmful practices are key contributing factors to the spread of HIV among women and girls,

Deeply concerned also by the increased vulnerability to HIV infection faced by women and girls living with disabilities resulting from, inter alia, legal and economic inequalities, sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination and violations of their rights,

Noting with concern that populations destabilized by armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and natural disasters, internally displaced persons and refugees, in particular women and children, especially girls, are at increased risk of HIV infection,

Recognizing that women and girls are more vulnerable to HIV infection and that they bear a disproportionate burden of the impact of the HIV and AIDS epidemic, including the care of and support for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, and that this negatively affects the enjoyment of their human rights, including the right to health,

Recognizing also that access to quality education and information and the retention of girls in school are a critical element in the prevention of HIV infection among women and girls,

Acknowledging the leadership of Governments, in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS and other specialized agencies and the international donor community and financing mechanisms, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in increasing domestic and international resources to support programmes that promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls to address HIV and AIDS,

Welcoming the leadership and commitment shown in all aspects of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including the HIV and AIDS response, by Governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and people living with HIV, including through the African Union Road Map on Shared Responsibility and Global Solidarity for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Response in Africa,

1. *Calls upon* Governments, international partners and civil society to give full attention to the high levels of new HIV infections among young women and adolescent girls and their root causes, bearing in mind that women and girls are physiologically more vulnerable to HIV, especially at an earlier age, than men and

boys, and that this is increased by discrimination and all forms of violence against women, girls and adolescents, including sexual exploitation and harmful practices;

2. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify efforts in attaining gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life, recognizing that structural gender inequalities, discrimination, violence against women and girls and harmful masculinities undermine effective HIV responses and the enjoyment of full and equal human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls;

3. *Calls upon* all Governments to enact and intensify the implementation of laws, policies and strategies to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls in the public and private spheres and harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and trafficking in persons, and ensure the full engagement of men and boys in order to reduce women and girls' vulnerability to HIV;

4. *Also calls upon* all Governments to intensify efforts to reduce the particularly high levels of HIV infection among women and girls at higher risk by reducing barriers to their participation in HIV prevention and care where possible, as well as removing barriers to their full participation in society, and by addressing practices such as trafficking in persons that contribute to HIV risk and social marginalization of women and girls;

5. *Further calls upon* all Governments to ensure a just and equitable world for women and girls, including through partnering with men and boys, as an important strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

6. *Calls upon* all Governments to promote universal health coverage, which implies that all people have equal access, without discrimination of any kind, to nationally determined sets of quality promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative basic health services needed and to essential, safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, especially through the promotion of primary health care, while ensuring that the use of those services does not expose the users to financial hardship, with a specific emphasis on women, children and the poor, vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population;

7. *Urges* Member States to adopt and implement measures that promote access to, retention in and the completion of education by girls, including catch-up and literacy education for those who did not receive formal education, and special initiatives for keeping girls in school through post-primary education, including those who are already married or pregnant or caring for people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS, and adopt social protection measures as protective strategies to reduce new HIV infections among young women and girls;

8. *Calls upon* Member States to address gender-based HIV-related stigma and discrimination against and among women and girls, so as to ensure the dignity, rights and privacy of women and girls living with and affected by HIV and AIDS, including in education, training and informal education and the workplace;

9. *Also calls upon* Member States to recognize women's contribution to the economy and their active participation in caring for people living with HIV and AIDS and to recognize, reduce, redistribute and value women's unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, the

promotion of equal sharing of responsibilities with men and boys and social protection targeted at women and girls who are vulnerable;

10. *Appeals* to Governments and the international community to accelerate efforts to scale up age-appropriate and culturally sensitive comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention for adolescent girls and boys and young women and men and the delivery of youth-friendly sexual and reproductive health-care services;

11. *Calls upon* Governments to take concrete long-term measures to achieve universal access to comprehensive HIV prevention, programmes, treatment, care and support to all women and girls and to remove all barriers to achieving universal health coverage and improve access to integrated sexual and reproductive health-care services, information, voluntary counselling and testing and commodities while building the capacity of adolescent girls and boys and young women and men to protect themselves from HIV infection and enabling their use of available commodities, including female and male condoms, post-exposure prophylaxis and pre-exposure prophylaxis while seeking to avoid risk-taking behaviour and encouraging responsible sexual behaviour;

12. *Commits* to remove, before 2030, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products, diagnostics, medicines and commodities and other pharmaceutical products, as well as treatment for opportunistic infections and co-infections, and to reduce costs associated with lifelong chronic care, including by amending national laws and regulations, so as to optimize the use, to the full extent, of existing flexibilities under the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) specifically geared to promoting access to and trade in medicines, and, while recognizing the importance of the intellectual property rights regime in contributing to a more effective AIDS response, ensure that intellectual property rights provisions in trade agreements do not undermine these existing flexibilities, as confirmed in the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, and call for early acceptance of the amendment to article 31 of the TRIPS Agreement adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization in its decision of 6 December 2005;

13. *Calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to uphold commitments to eliminate mother-to-child transmission and keep mothers alive, including through integrating HIV prevention, treatment, care and support, including confidential voluntary counselling and testing and elimination of mother-to-child/vertical transmission, with other primary health-care services, especially sexual and reproductive health-care services, and through means to prevent new infections among women and adolescent girls of reproductive age and the provision of sexual and reproductive health-care services and lifelong antiretroviral medication for women and girls living with HIV;

14. *Also calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to intensify combination prevention initiatives for women and girls for the prevention of new infections and to reverse the spread of HIV and reduce maternal mortality;

15. *Urges* Governments and stakeholders to address the increased vulnerability to HIV faced by older women and women and girls with disabilities,

ensuring their equal access to prevention, treatment, care and support, as an integral part of their HIV and AIDS response;

16. *Stresses* the importance of Governments, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS and other United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies developing and implementing strategies to improve infant HIV diagnosis, including through access to diagnostics at the point of care, significantly increasing and improving access to treatment for children and adolescents living with HIV, including access to prophylaxis and treatments for opportunistic infections and promoting a smooth transition from paediatric to adult treatment and related support and services, while taking into account the need to put in place programmes focused on delivering services to HIV-negative children born to women living with HIV, as they are still at high risk of morbidity and mortality, and to develop actions to limit post-delivery transmission through breastfeeding, through the provision of information and education;

17. *Calls upon* Governments and stakeholders to prioritize gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in all policies and programmes related to populations destabilized by armed conflict, including refugees and internally displaced persons, in particular women and children, who are at increased risk of HIV infection;

18. *Urges* Governments to increase political commitment and domestic financing to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls through national HIV and AIDS responses targeting women and girls that respect, promote and protect the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for women and girls, including in the context of the HIV epidemic, and promote equal economic opportunities and decent work for women and girls;

19. *Also urges* Governments to promote the active and meaningful participation, contribution and leadership of women and girls living with HIV, civil society actors, the private sector and youth and women's organizations in addressing the problem of HIV and AIDS in all its aspects, including promoting a gender-responsive approach to the national responses;

20. *Requests* Governments, the private sector, the international donor community and funds and programmes of the United Nations and specialized agencies to intensify financial and technical support to national efforts to end AIDS and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, focused on women and girls affected by the HIV and AIDS epidemic, and to also intensify financial and technical support to mainstreaming gender and human rights perspectives in policies, planning, programmes, monitoring and evaluation;

21. *Requests* Governments to avail of comprehensive data disaggregated by age and sex to inform a targeted response to the gender dimensions of HIV and AIDS;

22. *Stresses* the importance of building up national competence and capacity to provide an assessment of the drivers and impact of the epidemic, which should be used in HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support and for mitigating the impact of HIV and AIDS;

23. *Encourages* the international community and research institutions to support action-oriented research on gender and HIV and AIDS, including on female-controlled prevention commodities;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a progress report on the implementation of the present resolution to the sixty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

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Commission on the Status of Women
Sixtieth session
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Agenda item 2
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Draft resolution submitted by the Chair, Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Brazil), on the basis of informal consultations

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Multi-year programme of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that, in its resolutions 1987/24 of 26 May 1987, 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, 2001/4 of 24 July 2001, 2006/9 of 25 July 2006, 2009/15 of 28 July 2009 and 2013/18 of 24 July 2013, the Council adopted multi-year programmes of work for a focused and thematic approach for the Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling also that in its resolution 2013/18 the Council requested the Commission at its sixtieth session to decide on its future multi-year programme of work,

Recalling further its resolution 2015/6 of 8 June 2015, in which the Council requested the Commission to continue to apply a thematic approach to its work and to adopt a multi-year programme of work to allow predictability and adequate time for preparation; in selecting its priority theme, taking into consideration, in addition to the Beijing Platform for Action[1] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] the programme of work of the Council, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,[3] so as to build synergies and contribute to the work of the Council and the high-level political forum on

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.
[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.
[3] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

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sustainable development, according to the modalities to be established by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council in the context of the high-level political forum,

Recalling that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, in accordance with their respective mandates and in accordance with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policymaking and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Beijing Platform for Action and reaffirming the catalytic role of the Commission in mainstreaming a gender perspective in policies and programmes,

Acknowledging the centrality of the Beijing Platform for Action to the work of the Commission on the Status of Women, and recognizing that a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda will make a vital contribution to the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and help countries to maximize and track progress in order to ensure that no one is left behind,

Recalling the invitation to the Commission on the Status of Women to consider the issue of the empowerment of indigenous women at a future session, as stated in paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 69/2 of 22 September 2014, and acknowledging the intention to place this issue as a focus area of its sixty-first session,

Themes for 2017-2019

1. *Decides* that the Commission's multi-year programme of work for the sixty-first, sixty-second and sixty-third sessions will be as follows:

(a) Sixty-first session (2017):

(i) Priority theme: women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work;

(ii) Review theme: challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls (agreed conclusions of the fifty-eighth session);

(b) Sixty-second session (2018):

(i) Priority theme: challenges and opportunities in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: participation in and access of women to the media, and information and communications technologies and their impact on and use as an instrument for the advancement and empowerment of women (agreed conclusions of the forty-seventh session);

(c) Sixty-third session (2019):

(i) Priority theme: social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

(ii) Review theme: women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session);

2. *Requests* the Commission, in order to achieve concrete results in each review cycle, to consider and make a recommendation at its sixty-second session on how best to utilize the year 2020, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, so as to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls;

3. *Affirms* that the Commission will contribute to the thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals taking place at the high-level political forum.